

KEY - ACTIVITY A

1. Match the words/expressions that relate to learning languages in A to their definitions in B - Three of the definitions do not apply. Write the numbers in full, for example: 1 (one).

A

a- mother tongue – 8 (EIGHT)

b- official language – 1 (ONE)

c- phonetics – 7 (SEVEN)

d- lingua franca – 6 (SIX)

e- Esperanto – 4 (FOUR)

f- endangered language – 10 (TEN)

g- hybrid language – 5 (FIVE)

2. Complete the following text with five words/expressions from the box. Use each word/expression only once. Three words do not apply.

although	employers	being proficient	single	succeed	better	such
workers	throughout	full advantage	abroad	towards	share	

Why Learn Languages?

Language learning is something that everyone can do and do it **THROUGHOUT**¹ their lifetime - you're never too old or too young to learn a language! In many countries it is quite normal for most people to be able to use three languages. In the European Union, **SUCH**² people are well placed to take **FULL ADVANTAGE**³ of European citizenship and of the **SINGLE**⁴ market. They are **BETTER**⁵ able to move between countries for educational, professional or other reasons. Their linguistic skills are attractive to **EMPLOYERS**⁶. The European Commission wants everybody in the Union to **SHARE**⁷ these benefits. In its 1995 White Paper "Teaching and Learning: **TOWARDS**⁸ the learning society", it set the objective of all EU citizens **BEING PROFICIENT**⁹ in three European languages: their mother tongue plus two more. This is an important question: why do you want to learn? And what do you want to learn? If you have a clear reason for learning a language, you will be more motivated to **SUCCEED**¹⁰.

ACTIVITY B

Read the following text.

1. Match the paragraphs to the corresponding ideas. Do not use the same number twice and write the numbers in full, for example: 1 (one).

a. **PARAGRAPH 3 (three)** - The Internet is the main source of new words which are a mixture of English and other languages.

b. **PARAGRAPH 5 (five)** - English has turned into a global language as it is permeable to change.

c. **PARAGRAPH 1 (one)** - English is about to acquire the highest number of words existing in a single language.

d. **PARAGRAPH 4 (four)** - All the data compiled by Payack reached a high point in 1994 when the English language started being inundated by many new words.

f. **PARAGRAPH 2 (two)** - The administration has been fighting in vain against the invasion of English into the Chinese territory.

2. Find evidence in the text for the following statements.

a) The rising use of hybrid languages has expanded the English vocabulary.

"The growing use of Chinglish (Chinese-English) and dozens of other ethnic hybrids has pushed the number of words in the language to 986,120..."

b) Global English is evolving in an uncontrolled way and developing distinctive varieties of English.

"Global English (...) is running free and developing uniquely regional forms..."

c) Many hybrid languages have been cropping up mostly due to the World Wide Web.

Chinglish and up to 60 cousins such as Spanglish (Spanish-English), Japlish (Japanese English), and Hinglish (Hindi-English) owe their rise largely to the Internet.

3 Complete the sentences according to the text. Use your own words as far as possible!

a) French used to be the language used as the lingua franca.

b) Statistics prove that the number of speakers of the English language has increased dramatically (from 250 million in the sixties to 2 billion speakers today.

c) David Chrystal wonders whether English will be divided into several varieties or it will impose itself as a unique standard English.

4. Reread paragraph 3 and find appropriate words/phrases to fill in this table.

	SYNONYM	ANTONYM
supremacy	1) Domination	
comprise	2) contain	
decline		3) rise
on account of	4) thanks to	

5. Fill in the gaps with the following connectors. Three connectors do not apply.

however	moreover	but also	although
due to	indeed	because	or

An honorary professor and part-time lecturer of linguistics, David Crystal has published over 100 books, which manage to be both scholarly and eminently readable. **HOWEVER**, Crystal's greatest achievement is *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. In his preface to *The Cambridge Encyclopedia*, Crystal examines the question, "Why study the English language?" Here are two of the reasons he gives to studying English. First, he says that English is fascinating. **INDEED**, it is remarkable how often the language turns up as a topic of interest in daily conversation - whether it is a question about accents and dialects, a comment about usage and standards, **OR** simply curiosity about a word's origins and history. **MOREOVER**, we should study English **DUE TO** its importance. The dominant role of English as a world language forces it upon our attention in a way that no language has ever done before.

6. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Sally **IS**¹ (be) a teacher of English in China and **IS NOW TELLING**² (now/tell) her friends about an embarrassing experience she once had at school: "**HAVE** you ever **FELT**³ (feel) really ashamed in front of a class of children? One morning in Beijing my alarm clock **DIDN'T RING**⁴ (not ring) because I **HAD FORGOTTEN**⁵ (forget) to wind it up. When I arrived at school the students **HAD ALREADY GONE**⁶ (already/go) into class. Then, while I **WAS WRITING**⁷ (write) the summary on the board, all the students began laughing and speaking Chinese loudly and I **COULDN'T**⁸ (can not) understand why. Suddenly I looked down and immediately understood. I had put on one black shoe and one brown shoe! I quickly realised that I wouldn't forget that day in my entire life!"